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Attorney Docket No. 095309.57217US
Clean Substitute Specification

HARDTOP CONVERTIBLE VEHICLE

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This application claims the priority of German patent document 103 29 439.2, filed July 1, 2003 (PCT International Application No. PCT/EP2004/006951, filed June 26, 2004), the disclosure of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein.

[0002] The present invention relates to a hardtop convertible vehicle.

[0003] A convertible of the generic type with a hardtop which has three roof parts, is disclosed for example in German patent document DE 101 33 957 A1. In the open roof (top down) position, the front roof part is stowed in the trunk of the vehicle, between the central and the rear roof parts. The front roof part is raised over the central roof part by means of a corresponding lever arrangement during a stowing movement.

[0004] German patent document DE 199 62 070 A1 discloses a similar arrangement, in which the front roof part is likewise raised over the central roof part. However, in the stowed state, the front roof part lies at the top.

[0005] German patent document DE 196 42 153 A1, on the other hand, describes a motor vehicle with a retractable roof which also has three roof parts. In this case, the front roof part is folded in an articulated manner and is stowed in the trunk between the central roof part and the rear roof part. A similar